

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 BIB-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01 /063 W

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R 131626Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0165

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DA

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION - NO. 3 - GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN  
PROGRAM

REF: COPENHAGEN 3489 AND 3427

SUMMARY: IN A SKILLFUL AND EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE MOVE  
PRIME MINISTER POUL HARTLING PRESENTED HIS LIBERAL PARTY'S  
CAMPAIGN PROGRAM IN AN OPEN LETTER TO THE VOTERS PUBLISHED  
DEC 11 IN THE NATIONAL PRESS. CHARACTERIZING THE ELECTION  
AS A POPULAR REFERENDUM OVER HIS ECONOMIC "CRISIS PLAN  
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"75", HE APPROPRIATED FOR HIS PARTY THE ENTIRE CENTER OF

THE DANISH POLITICAL SPECTRUM BY PORTRAYING THE  
OPPOSITION AS BEING THE SOCIALISTS ON THE LEFT AND THE  
PROGRESS PARTY ON THE RIGHT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE MIDST OF THE FRANTIC, DISORGANIZED EFFORTS  
OF THE OTHER PARTIES TO FORMULATE AND PUBLISH THEIR  
ELECTION PLATFORMS, PRMIN POUL HARTLING'S GOVERNING  
LIBERAL PARTY COMMENCED ITS CAMPAIGN IMPRESSIVELY WITH  
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE VOTERS PUBLISHED IN THREE NATIONAL  
NEWSPAPERS DEC 11. THE TIMING COULD NOT HAVE BEEN  
BETTER - THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WAS AWARE THAT HE WAS IN  
PARIS AT THE EC SUMMIT MEETING - AND THE TONE WAS  
IMMENSELY EFFECTIVE. IN ACCORD WITH THE STRONGLY  
DEMOCRATIC TRADITION OF DANISH POLITICS, THE LETTER  
WAS SIGNED SIMPLY "WITH FRIENDLY GREETINGS, POUL HARTLING."

2. IN SUBSTANCE THE LETTER RECONFIRMED THE THREE MAJOR  
POINTS ON WHICH THE LIBERALS HAVE STRUCTURED THE  
ELECTION: (A) THAT THE PARTY'S "CRISIS PLAN" IS THE  
ONLY POSSIBLE POLICY IN THE CURRENT CRITICAL ECONOMIC  
SITUATION, AND ONE WHICH ANY PARTY HAVING GOVERNMENT  
RESPONSIBILITY WOULD HAVE HAD TO PUT FORWARD; (B) SINCE  
A MAJORITY OF THE FOLKETING, SPECIFICALLY THE THREE  
"SOCIALIST" PARTIES ON THE LEFT AND THE PROGRESS PARTY  
ON THE RIGHT WERE OPPOSED TO THE PROGRAM, A REFERENDUM  
OF THE POPULAR WILL WAS NECESSARY; AND (C) THAT SUPPORT  
FOR THE CRISIS PLAN (AND A VOTE FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY)  
WAS SYNONYMOUS WITH SUPPORTING THE ENTIRE CENTER OF  
THE DANISH POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

3. COINCIDENT WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE OPEN LETTER,  
LIBERAL SPOKESMEN ALSO ELABORATED THE PARTY'S GENERAL  
PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEAR PERIOD: (A) FURTHER  
REDUCTION OF TAXES; (B) A SIMPLIFIED TAX PAYMENT  
SYSTEM; (C) IMPLEMENTATION OF "THE GRASS ROOTS SOCIETY"  
CONCEPT (A DE-CENTRALIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND  
PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCIES); (D) SCHOOLS AS INSTITUTIONS  
OF KNOWLEDGE (REFLECTING THE LIBERALS' CURRENT CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION IN THE SCHOOLS.)

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4. TACTICALLY THE LIBERALS HAVE SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY THEIR  
MAJOR OPPONENT, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, WITH THAT PARTY'S  
MORE RADICAL LEFT WING BY RUNNING MORE AGAINST THE  
PERSON OF ANKER JORGENSEN, FORMER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
PRIMIN, THAN AGAINST THE PARTY AS A WHOLE. THE LIBERALS  
SPREAD THE WORD THAT AFTER THE ELECTIONS THEY WOULD BE  
WILLING TO ENTER A COALITION WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS,  
SO LONG AS THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ANYONE OTHER THAN

ANKER JORGENSEN. ALTHOUGH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SOUGHT TO IGNORE THIS SALLY, THEY WERE COMPELLED YESTERDAY TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THAT THE ONLY SOCIAL DEMOCRAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER AS PRIME MINISTER AFTER THE ELECTION WAS JORGENSEN. THIS WILL NOT HELP THE PARTY'S POPULAR APPEAL. A VOTER POLL PUBLISHED DEC 13 INDICATED THAT ONLY 11 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE (AND 33 PERCENT OF HIS OWN PARTY) FAVORED JORGENSEN AS PRIME MINISTER AS OPPOSED TO 31 PERCENT FAVORING POUL HAARTLING.

5. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SPECTRUM, IF HARTLING DID NOT HAVE GLISTRUP HE WOULD HAVE TO INVENT HIM. BY PORTRAYING THE PROGRESS PARTY AS BEING ON THE FAR RIGHT, THE LIBERAL PARTY (WHICH WITH ITS POLITICAL BASE IN THE PROVINCES IS BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE) HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ABLE TO APPROPRIATE THE POLITICAL MIDDLE. DUNNIGAN

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